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**Bewölkungsverhältnisse und Sonnenscheindauer von Nordamerika.** Von Arthur Gläser. 63 pp. Diagrams. *Archiv der Deutschen Seewarte*, Vol. 35, 1912, No. 1. Hamburg, 1912. Mk. 4.50. 12 x 9½.

Teisserenc de Bort (1884), Greely (1891) and K. McR. Clark (1911) studied and charted the cloudiness of the United States. In two cases (Greely and Clark) we have had monthly as well as annual isonephs. Now comes a new publication by Arthur Gläser, prepared as an "Inaugural-Dissertation" at the University of Leipzig, in which we have by far the most complete discussion of the cloudiness and sunshine of North America which has yet been attempted. All available material has been drawn upon; the data have been subjected to critical comparison, and an unusually large number of charts and diagrams has been prepared. Thus, under cloudiness, we have charts showing the monthly, seasonal and annual isonephs; annual variation; seasons of maximum and minimum cloudiness, and diagrams of isopleths for longitudes 80°, 90°, 100° and 110° west, and latitudes 32°, 40° and 47° north, as well as for the west and east coasts. The accompanying discussion is unusually complete, and takes up the causes of the variations in cloudiness, as well as the facts of variation. Our only comment on these excellent charts would be that it might perhaps have been wiser to omit a good many of the local isonephs in cases where the area concerned is small. Recorded amounts of cloudiness depend to so considerable an extent upon the personal equation of the observers, and the possibility of drawing these local isonephs is determined in so many cases by the fact that there happens to be a station in that particular locality, that to include the smaller details seems to us to give a less accurate rather than a clearer and more accurate view of the actual distribution of cloudiness.

Sunshine in North America has received even less attention in the past than cloudiness, for the reason, doubtless, that the data are far less complete, and are also more recent. Van Bebber's chart (1896) is well known because of its having been included in Bartholomew's *Atlas of Meteorology*. Dr. Gläser has given us charts showing the mean hourly duration of sunshine for each month and for the year; monthly isohels (per cent.) and the annual variation in these percentages; seasons of maximum and minimum cloudiness; mean duration of sunshine in hours of the day for each month; daily march of sunshine for summer, winter and the year, and still other charts. In addition, diagrams showing the distribution of sunshine, by means of isopleths, for the same latitudes and longitudes as in the case of cloudiness, are included.

The mere enumeration of these various charts and diagrams will serve to indicate the thoroughness with which the whole investigation has been carried out. Dr. Gläser has made one of the notable contributions to American climatology.

R. DEC. WARD.

**An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions from Newfoundland to the Parallel of the Southern Boundary of Virginia, and from the Atlantic Ocean Westward to the 102d Meridian.** By Nathaniel L. Britton and Addison Brown. 2nd edition, revised and enlarged. Vol. 1: Ferns to Buckwheat. xxix and 680 pp. Vol. 2: Amaranth to Polypremum. iv and 735 pp. Vol. 3: Gentian to Thistle. 637 pp. Index. Ills. in each. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. 11 x 7½.

Students of American plant geography, as well as other groups of botanical workers, will find the new edition of this well-known work very valuable, even indispensable in many cases. To the phytogeographer and the plant ecologist the book is especially well suited, serving them as a highly authoritative index and catalogue of the plant forms with which they have to deal. By the aid of line drawings which accompany each species description, the labor of plant identification is very greatly reduced, thus allowing the results of special taxonomic study to be employed with considerable readiness by non-taxonomic workers. This feature of the work before us has already proved itself in the first edition.

The geographical area embraced by this descriptive catalogue of native and naturalized ferns and seed-plants is given in the title. The whole of Nebraska is included. The notes upon distribution, however, frequently refer

to geographic limits beyond those mentioned. These notes, while appearing very vague and unsatisfactory to the student of vegetational distribution, are doubtless about as definite as the present status of knowledge will permit, and such students will be thankful for what is given.

The information upon habitats is not by any means so pleasing as that concerning geographical ranges. It is a remarkable fact that little if any improvement in the characterization of plant habitats in such books as this seems to have been attempted for many decades, and no attempt in this direction is here evident. Habitat conditions are frequently not mentioned at all, and where they do find place the terms employed are usually very indefinite and carry but little meaning; it appears that these habitat notes have been allowed to find their way into the work without critical attention. Thus, the thirteen species of *Sparganium* here dealt with apparently occur in eleven different categories of habitats, the latter being described as follows: "In marshes and along streams," "in bogs and shallow water," "in low grounds or ponds," "in ponds and streams" (three species so noted), "in lakes and streams," "in marshes and rivers," "in bogs," "in swamps and on muddy shores," "in ponds and marshes," "in slow streams and ponds," and "in ponds and cold lakes." For another illustration of the prevalent futility of these habitat notes, out of the twenty-five species of *Quercus* that are listed six are given without any intimation of the sort of habitats in which they are to be found, six others are said to occur "in dry soil," and the remaining thirteen occur:—"in moist ground"; "in clayey soils"; on "borders of swamps and streams"; "in sandy or rocky soil"; "along streams and swamps"; "in swamps and along streams"; "in rich soil"; "in moist or swampy soil"; "in moist soil"; "in dry soil, preferring limestone ridges"; and "in dry sandy or rocky soil." Such examples as these lead the student of plant distribution to an appreciation of the almost untouched newness of his field of work and to the conviction that the whole problem of the relation of plant form to environmental conditions remains to be explored. Considering the historical development and present nature of botanical science, these remarks are not to be taken as adverse criticism of a work written by taxonomists for taxonomists; nevertheless the question may be logical and permissible, if habitats are to receive attention at all in such a work as this, then why not strive to have these notes at least logically clear and perhaps as definite as present knowledge will allow? To the general student of plant phenomena it may appear that habitat characters are as interesting and important as are the conventional morphological descriptions of the plants themselves. It may be hoped that with the appearance of a third edition of this important work (and there will assuredly be a third edition), the ecological view-point may have become general enough so that the present naive and often well-nigh meaningless habitat descriptions may be displaced by others more worthy of the name of science.

As to the plant names employed in the "Flora," there are probably many who will still prefer to cling, in numerous instances, to binomials other than the ones here set down. The writers have followed the "American code" of nomenclature, but the once strange and fearsome workings of this code have already become familiar to at least the younger generation of American botanists. What may be the outcome of the persistent disagreement among taxonomists, in regard to nomenclatorial codes, may not yet be prophesied, but there can be little doubt that the success which has been achieved by the "Illustrated Flora" in its first edition and the further impetus now given by the second edition, will render a possible displacement of the binomials here employed a very slow and arduous process—if, indeed, such displacement be destined ever to occur. The patent fact seems to be that there are now simultaneously prevalent at least two different binomials for each of a large group of American plants; of these names the botanical writer is free to take his choice. An author's name appended to the binomial always makes it clear, however, so that the condition of affairs here is not nearly so serious as is sometimes supposed. It may be hoped, nevertheless, that taxonomists may agree to employ but a single binomial for each recognized plant species sometime before the world adopts a universal language. Students of plants will

probably realize sooner or later that nomenclature is not in any true sense an end in itself, but is merely a more or less conventional tool for expressing important relations. Britton and Brown's work makes such a position easy, for these authors are careful to give synonyms wherever needed.

Numerous changes have been made from the first edition, some of them minor, some of them farther reaching. The whole number of species included has been increased from 4,162 to 4,666, and the number of recognized genera is now 1,229 instead of 1,103 as in the first edition. There now appear 194 families instead of 177. The genus "*Crataegus*" has grown remarkably during the last decade; the first edition of the "Flora" recognized but fifteen species while the present edition includes seventy-three.

The excellence of typography and of mechanical and aesthetic features, which characterized the earlier volumes, has been retained in the books before us. It is safe to predict that the new "Flora" will find a place on the shelves of every botanical library.

B. E. LIVINGSTON.

**The Coming Mexico.** By Joseph King Goodrich. *The World To-Day Series.* xii and 280 pp. Ills., index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1913. \$1.50. 7½ x 5.

The author has the advantage of having known Mexico since 1866. Scenery, prehistoric civilization, social and economic phenomena are considered as well as the country's resources and the prospects of their development. Such a wide field cannot of course be adequately covered within the space of a single volume. Nevertheless the work will be instructive to those who have never traveled south of the Rio Grande. Optimistic views regarding the Republic's future are presented.

LEON DOMINIAN.

**The Viceroy of New Spain.** By Donald E. Smith. *Univ. of California Publications in History,* Vol. 1, 1913, No. 2, pp. 99-293. Berkeley, Cal. \$2. 10 x 6½.

This publication is specifically historical. It is an honest, liberal and impartial effort, fair to Spanish matters and utterly free from the invective and vituperation commonly poured out upon them by writers of other nations. The sources at the command of the author are comparatively limited and he is conscious of it, but what he had he has used conscientiously and with unusual fairness.

AD. F. BANDELIER.

**Bermuda, Past and Present.** A Descriptive and Historical Account of the Somers Islands. By Walter Brownell Hayward. xii and 239 pp. Ills., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1912. \$1.25. 8 x 5½.

From the tourist's point of view this is, on the whole, the most helpful book on Bermuda. It does not supplant such a work as Verrill's but it is handy to carry and its information has been carefully compiled. It includes an account of the history of Bermuda as well as an adequate description of the wonderful charm and comfort that of late years have drawn to this dotlet in the ocean from 15,000 to 27,000 visitors a year. Unfortunately some popular books sold to tourists as guide books, while containing much helpful information, are marred by many trivialities and inaccuracies.

Why a mere mention in Mr. Hayward's book of the "Boilers or Coral Atolls"? A good picture of them is given. They are peculiar to Bermuda, their process of development is well known and it would interest any intelligent person to be told something of the origin of this remarkable feature of the south coast.

#### CENTRAL AMERICA AND WEST INDIES

**La Inmigración Italiana y la Colonización en Cuba.** Por F. F. Falco. 96 pp. Index. Soc. Tipogr.-Editrice Nazionale, Turin, 1912. 9½ x 6½.

While Dr. Falco's report deals mainly with Italian emigration to Cuba, its value as a contribution to the problem of Italian emigration entitles it to wider consideration. Ample evidence of the author's twenty years' investigation of